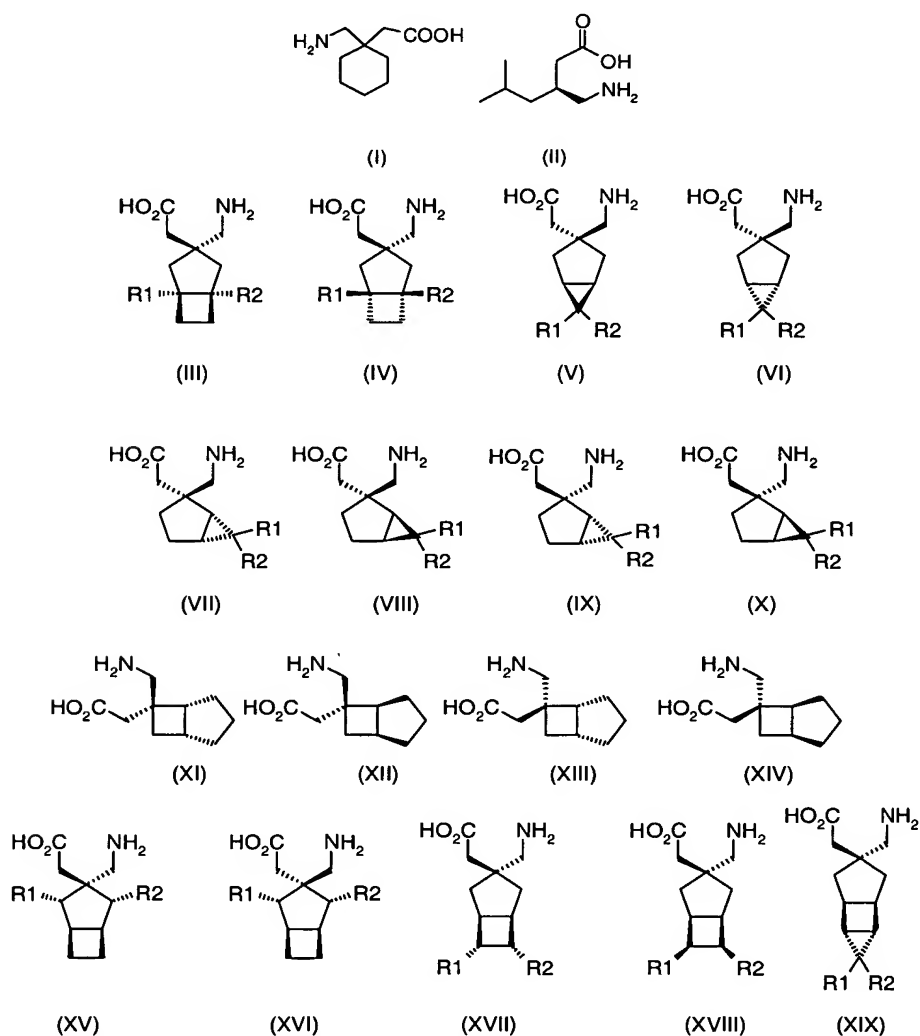
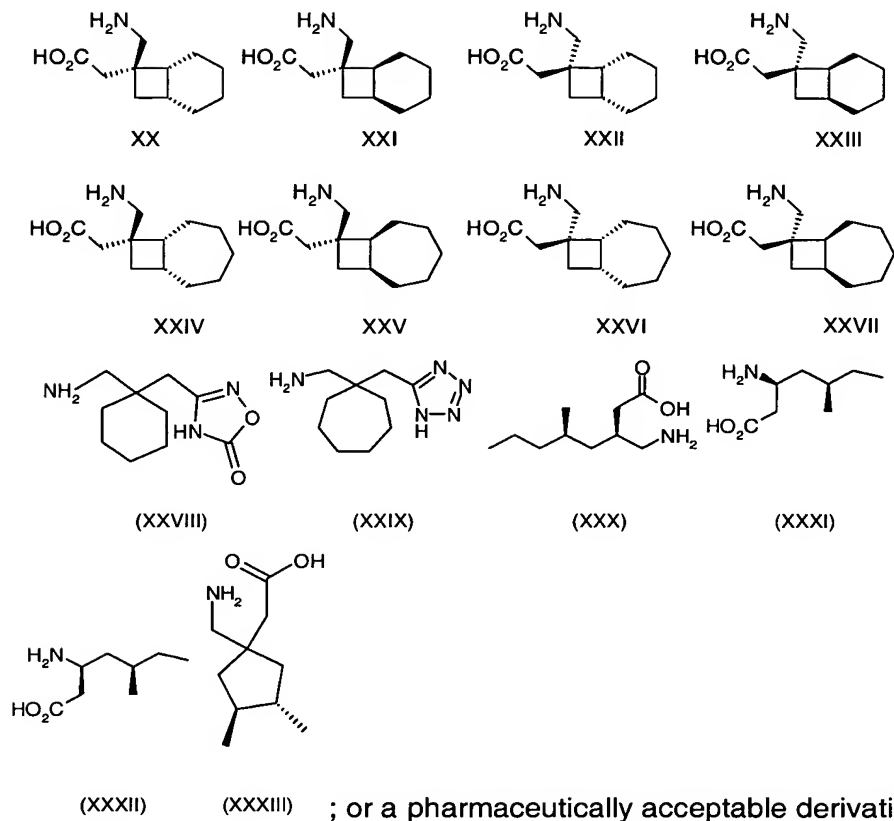


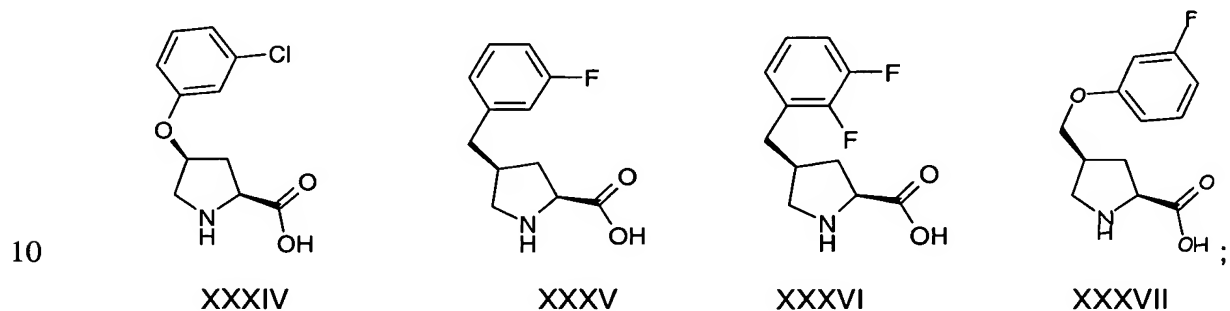
CLAIMS:

1. Use of an alpha-2-delta ligand, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of premature ejaculation.
2. Use according to claim 1 wherein administration is on as needed basis
3. Use according to claims 1 or 2 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is selected from:

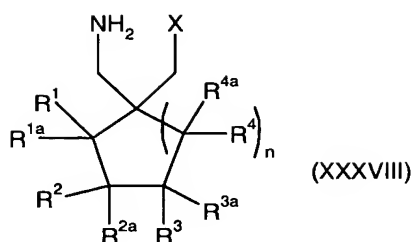




5 thereof, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are each independently selected from H, straight or branched alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of from 3-6 carbon atoms, phenyl and benzyl, subject to the proviso that, except in the case of a tricyclooctane compound of formula (XVIII), R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are not simultaneously hydrogen;



10 compounds of formula (XXXVIII):



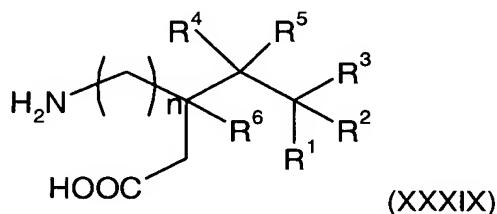
wherein X is a carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid bioisostere;

n is 0, 1 or 2; and

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>1a</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>2a</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>3a</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>4a</sup> are independently selected from H and C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, or

- 5 R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are taken together to form a C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> cycloalkyl ring, which is optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

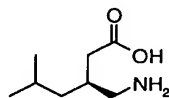
Compounds of formula (XXXIX):



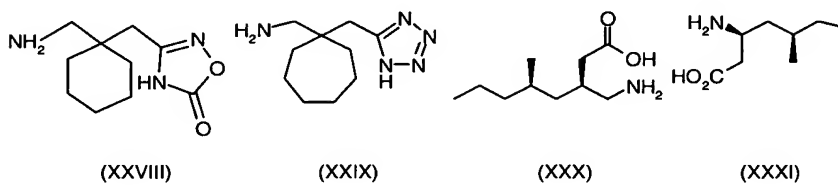
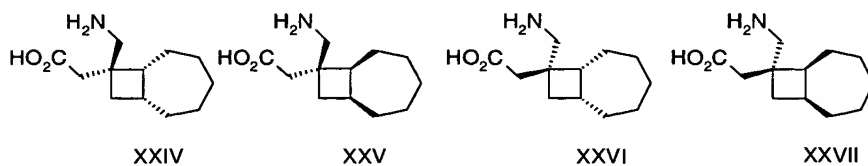
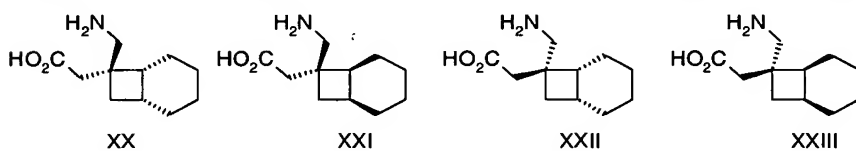
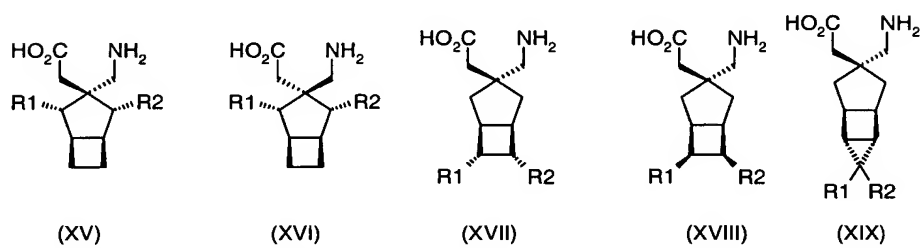
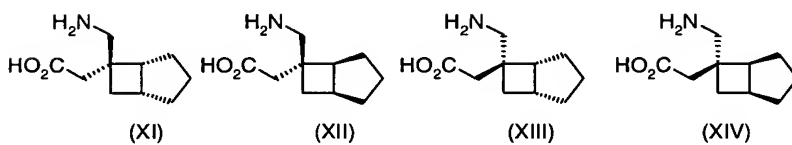
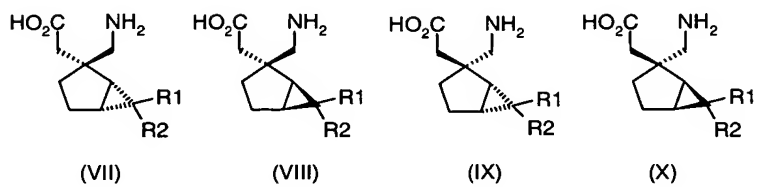
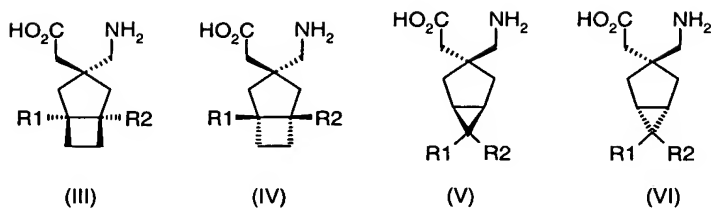
wherein:

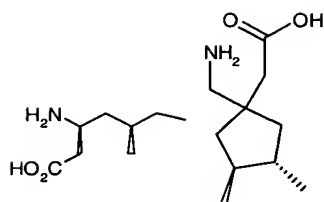
n is 0 or 1, R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; R<sup>4</sup> is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl and R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. Use according to claims 1 or 2 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is selected from:



(II)

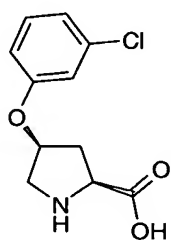




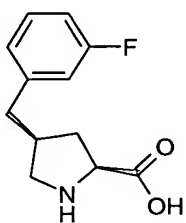
(XXXII) (XXXIII) ; or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative

thereof, wherein  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently selected from H, straight or branched alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of from 3-6 carbon atoms, phenyl and benzyl, subject to the proviso that, except in the case of a tricyclooctane compound of formula (XVIII),  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are not simultaneously hydrogen; and

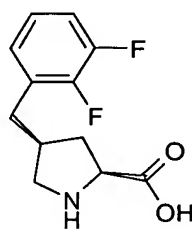
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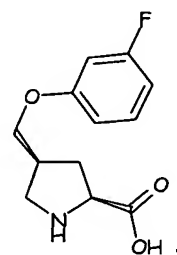
XXXIV



XXXV

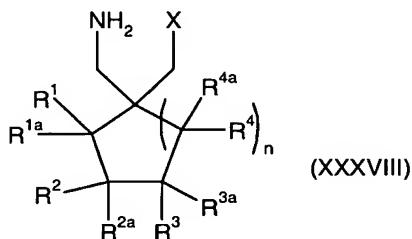


XXXVI



XXXVII

10 compounds of formula (XXXVIII):



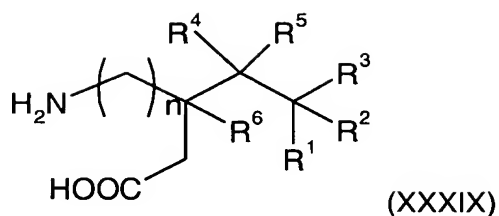
wherein X is a carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid bioisostere;

n is 0, 1 or 2; and

$R^1$ ,  $R^{1a}$ ,  $R^{2a}$ ,  $R^{3a}$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^{4a}$  are H and  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are independently selected from H and methyl, or  $R^{1a}$ ,  $R^{2a}$ ,  $R^{3a}$  and  $R^{4a}$  are H and  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  or  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  are taken together to form a  $C_4$ - $C_5$  cycloalkyl ring, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

15

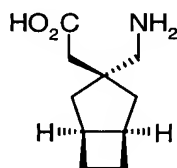
Compounds of formula (XXXIX):



wherein:

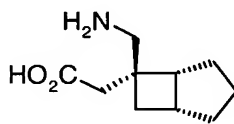
R<sup>1</sup> is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl or n-butyl, R<sup>2</sup> is methyl, R<sup>3</sup> – R<sup>6</sup> are hydrogen and n is 0 or 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein compounds are in the 3S,5R configuration.

5. Use according to claims 1 or 2 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is selected from: pregabalin (II), (1 $\alpha$ ,3 $\alpha$ ,5 $\alpha$ )(3-amino-methyl-bicyclo[3.2.0]hept-3-yl)-acetic acid (III'),



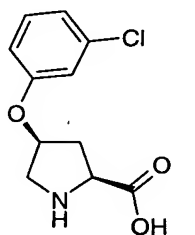
(III')

[(1R,5R,6S)-6-(Aminomethyl)bicyclo[3.2.0]hept-6-yl]acetic acid (XI); and



(XI)

- 15 (2S, 4S)-4-(3-Chloro-phenoxy)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid (XXXIV)



(XXXIV)

- 5
6. Use according to claims 1 or 2 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is is [(1R,5R,6S)-6-(Aminomethyl)bicyclo[3.2.0]hept-6-yl]acetic acid or (2S, 4S)-4-(3-Chloro-phenoxy)-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid.
7. Use according to claims 1 or 2 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is is [(1R,5R,6S)-6-(Aminomethyl)bicyclo[3.2.0]hept-6-yl]acetic acid
- 10 8. A method of treating premature ejaculation comprising administering an alpha-2-delta ligand, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, to a patient in need of such treatment.
9. A method as claimed in claim 8, where administration is on an as needed basis.
- 15 10. A method according to claims 8 or 9, wherein said ligand is as defined in any of claims 3 to 7.
- 20 11. A pharmaceutical product containing an alpha-2-delta ligand and an additional therapeutic agent as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of premature ejaculation.
12. A product as claimed in claim 11 where the alpha-2-delta ligand is as defined in any of claims 3-7

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